

June 13, 2013

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

The Regular Session of Council Committee of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, Nova Scotia on Thursday, June 13, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Bob Taylor	
Councillor Christine Blair	District #1
Deputy Mayor Bill Masters, Chair	District #2
Councillor Geoff Stewart	District #3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District #4
Councillor Lloyd Gibbs	District #5
Councillor Mike Gregory	District #7
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District #8
Councillor Doug MacInnes	District #9 (arrived at 7:40 p.m.)
Councillor Tom Taggart	District #10
Councillor Wade Parker	District #11

Regrets:

Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District #6
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Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the agenda for June 13, 2013 be approved with the following additions:

- add Item #13b: Royalties on Bottled Water
- add Item #13c: Fracking Wastewater - Town of Windsor
- add to Item #14, Closed Session: Legal Advice
- add Item #13d: Street Paving of J-Class Roads
- add Item #13e: Request for Meeting with CoRDA
- add Item #15b: Fracking - US Consulate.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the minutes of meetings held on May 13 and 16, 2013 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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**Business Arising
from Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes of meetings held on May 13 and May 16, 2013.

Presentations**Mr. Curtis Millen, President, Millen Farms Ltd.**

Mr. Millen began his presentation by introducing his two sons, Jonathan and Brandon, and his daughter, Megan. By way of a powerpoint presentation, Mr. Millen provided an overview of his farming operations, including amount of farm gate sales per year, number of workers employed and the production and marketing of the farm's strawberry and blueberry crops.

Mr. Millen had written a letter to the Municipality expressing his interest in purchasing some 400 acres of land off the Masstown Road on the south side of the Debert Airport. Mr. Millen indicated that approximately 275 acres of this land is covered with between 30 and 40 centimeters of sandy loamy soil on top of a gravel base and is some of the very best agriculture land in Central Nova Scotia. Should the Municipality allow Millen Farms to purchase this land, there would be \$10,000,000 invested over the first ten years which would result in farm gate sales of \$3,000,000 within the first five years.

At this point, Councillor MacInnes arrived at the meeting.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Blair

"That the presentation from Millen Farms Ltd. be received."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

"That the request from Millen Farms Ltd. to purchase approximately 400 acres of land off the Masstown Road be referred to staff."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**LED Streetlight
Conversion**

Following a staff presentation at the May Council meeting, staff were directed to obtain additional information prior to Council making a decision on LED streetlight conversion.

Mr. Ramesh Ummat, Chief Administrative Officer, presented a further presentation on information obtained since that meeting. Discussion

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throughout the presentation showed that sufficient information was still not available to make an informed decision and that this message should be relayed to the Province of Nova Scotia.

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That a letter be sent to the provincial Minister of Energy advising that, given the information on LED streetlight conversion to date indicates poor performance and poor coverage, the Municipality cannot responsibly make an informed decision at this time on either remaining with Nova Scotia Power or assuming ownership of streetlights; and, that a review of the Energy Efficiency Regulations be conducted with a view to relaxing the deadline given to municipalities for this decision of June 30, 2013.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Staffing Request -
Director of
Corporate Services**

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the opening of a competition for the Director of Corporate Services position and that a professional recruitment agency conduct the hiring process.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Staffing Request -
Receptionist**

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the new position of Receptionist/Administrative Support Clerk be approved and following that, that a competition be opened for this position in accordance with the County’s Personnel Policies.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Council
Remuneration**

It was noted that, at a meeting on May 28, 2013, Council authorized June Council Committee to make a final decision on this matter.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That Council Committee accepts the recommendation from the Executive and Audit Committee to approve the following remuneration package for Council:

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Mayor - \$56,500
Deputy Mayor - \$29,000
Councillor - \$23,700

- and -

That a review of Council remuneration be conducted again at least two months prior to the 2016 municipal election.”

Motion Carried. *(Councillors Blair, Stewart, Gregory and MacInnes opposed)*

It was noted that Council’s approval of this motion results in an amendment to the Payment to Councillors By-law (Chapter 4) which will require two readings, the First Reading at June Council, followed by the Second Reading at August Council.

Cost of Moving Old Cottages Due to Coastal Erosion

Moved by Councillor Taggart
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That a resolution be forwarded to the 2013 Fall UNSM Conference proposing an exemption to the National Building Code be created to allow existing cottages with floating foundations be grand fathered from engineering requirements when relocated due to coastal erosion.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Healthy Living Round Table - Request for Funding

It was noted that, at a meeting on May 28, 2013, Council authorized June Council Committee to make a final decision on this matter.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That Council Committee approves a donation in the amount of \$,1250 in support of the Healthy Living Round Table event being held on June 18, 2013 at the Rath-Eastlink Community Centre, source of funds to be Economic Development Grants.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Truro Theatre Society - Request for Funding

It was noted that, at a meeting on May 28, 2013, Council authorized June Council Committee to make a final decision on this matter.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee approves a donation in the amount of \$1,250 to the Truro Theatre Society in support of a theatrical performance of

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Shakespeare in Victoria Park being held on July 21 and 22, 2013, source of funds to be Economic Development Grants.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Order of Eastern
Star - Grand
Chapter Session**

Moved by Mayor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council a donation in the amount of \$1,000 be approved to the Order of the Eastern Star in support of an event being held in Truro on July 8-10, 2013, source of funds to be Economic Development Grants.”

Motion Carried. *(Deputy Mayor Masters and Councillor Gregory opposed)*

**Royalties on Bottled
Water**

Councillor Gibbs requested that the issue of municipalities charging royalties for bottling of water be raised again with the Minister of Finance and/or the Minister of Energy. Mayor Taylor indicated that the Municipality had previously written to the Minister of Energy with an offer to split the royalties with the Province; however, the offer was not accepted. After a brief discussion, it was recommended that another resolution be forwarded to the UNSM for consideration at the 2013 Fall Conference.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That a resolution be forwarded to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities for consideration at the 2013 Fall Conference for an amendment to the Municipal Government Act that would provide municipalities with legal authority to charge royalties for bottling of water.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Fracking
Wastewater in Town
of Windsor**

Councillor Gibbs voiced his concern regarding a rumour about the Town of Windsor accepting fracking wastewater into their sewage treatment plant and subsequently disposing of it in the Bay of Fundy. Following a brief discussion, it was recommended that a letter be written to the Town of Windsor requesting that they follow Colchester’s lead and not accept this wastewater into their public sewer system.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes

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 Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That a letter be written to the Town of Windsor and copied to the Department of Environment, recommending that they not accept treated fracking wastewater into the public sewer system.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Street Paving of
J-Class Roads**

The CAO, Ramesh Ummat, briefed Council on the Province’s street paving project involving three streets, namely Mulberry Terrace, Huckleberry Lane and Delaney Drive. With the approval of Council, the Municipality requested that the Province add these streets as one block to their annual paving priority list for 2013-14. The Province confirmed that these three streets would be paved in 2013-14; however, the estimate of cost was much higher than originally anticipated. Council agreed to pay the excess costs to a limit of 10% above the estimated value.

Since that time, Mr. Ummat received a letter/petition from the residents of Mulberry Terrace, 11 of who do not want the paving done, five of those 11 had originally indicated they wanted the street paved. Mr. Ummat also made reference to a letter from MLA Karen Casey in which residents of Mulberry Terrace expressed their desire to have their street removed from the paving project. Both documents were on table.

Mr. Ummat has written to Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to explain the situation and suggested to Council that a new petition could be created or if acceptable, Mulberry Terrace could be withdrawn from the Province’s priority list.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
 Seconded by Mayor Taylor

“That Council Committee recommends to Council approval for the removal of Mulberry Terrace from Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal’s priority list as one of the three streets to be paved in 2013-14 under the provincial cost-sharing program.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Request for Meeting
 with CoRDA**

Mayor Taylor referenced an email he received from CoRDA in which the CoRDA Board has requested a meeting with Council. Following a brief discussion, Council agreed to meet with the CoRDA Board of Directors, date and time to be determined.

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ITEMS**Fracking - U.S.
Consulate**

Councillor Taggart reported on a video conference call he participated in with the U.S. Consulate regarding fracking. He was asked to participate in the call in his capacity as Chair of the Sewer Use By-law Appeals Committee. During the call, it was made clear that the Municipality had made the right decision on not allowing treated fracking wastewater to be disposed of in the Bay of Fundy.

Closed Session

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting go into closed session at 11:20 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 11:55 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting be adjourned at 11:56 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault
Recording Secretary